

307
ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Urban District of Usk.

For the Year 1925,

BY

E. L. M. HACKETT,

Medical Officer of Health.

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USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Usk 1st January 1927.

ADDENDA to ANNUAL REPORT 1925.

(1) Legislation in Force

Local Acts... Nil

Adoptive Acts Parts 11 and 111 of 53 & 54
Vic.C.59.

Byelaws... Meetings, Officers &c, Nuisances,
Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging
Houses, Cattle Market.

(2) Schools. See top of page 4 of Annual Report

(3) No of inspections during year. 14 arising out of
clearing of footpaths and pavements,
Removal of Refuse from premises,
cleansing of privies, ashpits &c,
Slaughter-houses, Common Lodging
Houses, Bakehouses and Cattle Market.

(Signed)

E.L.M.Hackett

Med. Officer

Riverside, Usk,

April, 1926.

To the Chairman and Members of the Usk
Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my Annual Report for the year 1915 on the Public Health, Sanitation, and Vital Statistics of your town, arranged in accordance with Circular Memo. 648 (Wales) of the Ministry of Health.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Population—Census 1921—1,495. Estimated 1925—1,412.

Number of inhabited houses(1921)—332.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)—333.

Rateable value—£6299 14s. 6d.

Sum represented by a penny rate—£26.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants, and the influence of any particular occupation on public health.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are Wood Turnery and Sawvery, Carriage Building and Repairing, Motor Repairing and Dressmaking. There are a few colliers and steel workers from the neighbouring Industrial Areas residing in the Town, also a few Bakers, Printers, Blacksmiths, Carpenters, Painters and Decorators, etc.

Vital Statistics (Housing).

Births—Legitimate, 4 Males, 12 Females; Illegitimate, 2 Male. Birth Rate, 11.33.

Deaths—4 Males, 8 Females; Death Rate, 8.50.

Number of Women dying in consequence of Child-birth—1

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age per 1000 Births—0 : Legitimate, 0 ; Illegitimate, nil ; Total, Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)—Nil.

Causes of Death and Ages at Death of Children under 1 year—Nil.

Births and Deaths.

Birth rate for Monmouthshire per 1000 of population, 21.5

Birth rate for England and Wales, 18.3

Death rate for Monmouthshire per 1000 of population, 10.6

Death rate for England and Wales per 1000 of population, 12.2.

Notifiable Diseases During the Year.

This was the only case of Infectious Notifiable Disease during the year.

Disease	Age Period	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Puerperal Fever	20—25	1	Nil	1

Tuberculosis. (New Cases and Mortality).

Non Pulmonary. Nil.

Pulmonary.

Age Period	New Cases.	Deaths
20—25	1	Nil.

Poor Law Relief.

This is administered through the Guardians of the Poor, Pontypool, and the Hospital and other forms of gratuitous relief are readily availed of by those needing them.

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

Professional Nursing in the Home for General Diseases is afforded by the District Nurse, who is provided by the Monmouthshire Nursing Association. She is paid £114 per annum, and provided with uniform and a bicycle. Her salary is provided as follows :—

Monmouthshire Nursing Association—£35.

Pontypool Rural District Council—£5.

Private subscriptions and fees received by the Nurse make up the remainder, and also pay for a substitute during her holiday or absence from any other cause.

MIDWIVES.

Number practising in the district—2.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRE.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is held in the Town, under the auspices of the Monmouthshire County Council, who also provide dental and other clinics for school children.

Venereal and Tuberculosis Clinics are available at Newport and Pontypool.

There is no provision for the Nursing of Infectious or Septic Diseases in the Town.

INSTITUTION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS.

Nantyberry House.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Newport.

HOSPITALS.

The Royal Gwent, Newport (2) Pontypool and District Hospital, and (3) The Union Hospital, Griffithstown. are availed of by the Town, and the services of these Institutions are generously extended to urgent cases in Usk.

Laboratory Work.

The County Council Laboratory at Newport is freely availed of for diagnostic purposes, such as throat swab, blood and sputum tests, etc., etc.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Council, and a good supply is always at hand.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

This is supplied by the Usk Water Works, which obtains its supply from a large spring on the hill-side $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Town. The water is excellent, and sufficient in quantity and force for all needs.

Rivers and Streams.

There is no pollution worth mentioning in the River and Streams in the Area.

Closet Accommodation.

Practically every house in the Town is connected up to the Main Sewerage System,

Scavenging.

Collection of House Refuse is done weekly, and the refuse carted to a distance and disposed of.

The Streets are daily cleaned and the refuse disposed of.

All surface traps are daily inspected, and disinfected regularly during the summer months.

The sewage beds and filters in connection with sewage system are regularly inspected and suitably dealt with.

Disinfection and Fumigation by Formalin Lamp is carried out in all cases of houses in which Infectious Disease has occurred

Slaughter Houses, Milkshops and Cowsheds are regularly inspected.

Sanitary Inspection of the Town.

This is carried out thoroughly and efficiently by the Inspector.

Schools.

The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of these is satisfactory.

Housing.

The general Housing Conditions of the Town are satisfactory ; there is neither shortage nor excess of houses, and there is no overcrowding.

Seven New Houses have been built during the year.

Fitness of Houses.

With the exception of a few houses in Baron Street, Mill Street and Old Market Street, the general standard of houses in the Town is good.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are four Milk Vendors and one Dairy in the Town, and the wholesomeness and general adequacy of the arrangements for supply and distribution of pure milk is satisfactory.

No cases of tuberculous milk or tuberculous cattle have come to my notice.

Meat.

No animals, other than those which are perfectly healthy, are slaughtered in the Town, and all meat both in the slaughter houses and shops is regularly inspected and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924 are regularly observed.

Slaughter Houses.

There are three Registered Slaughter Houses in the Town, and these are regularly inspected and satisfactory in every detail.

Unsound Food.

No unsound food has been offered for sale during the year.

Bakehouses, Etc.

These are sanitary, clean, and comply with the Regulations.

Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases (1920—1925).

The prevalence of Infectious Disease has been negligible during the past five years, and no use has been made of the SCHICK and DICK tests in Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever.

Public Health Staff.

Clerk—Part time.

M.O.H.—Part time—Exchequer Grant.

Sanitary Inspector—Part time—ditto.

Surveyor—Part time—Ministry of Transport Grant.

Collector—Part time.

APPENDIX I.

Causes of Death in the Usk Urban District, 1925.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	4	8
Cerebral hemorrhage, &c. ...	1	—
Heart disease	2	6
Bronchitis	1	—
Acute and chronic nephritis ...	—	1
Other defined diseases ...	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year, total	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—
TOTAL BIRTHS	4	12
Legitimate	3	12
Illegitimate	1	—
POPULATION	1,412	

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE,

SOMERSET HOUSE,

LONDON, W.C. 2.

March, 1926.

APPENDIX II.

Housing Conditions.

STATISTICS.

YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

1.—GENERAL.

Number of dwelling-houses of all classes ...	339
Number of working-class dwelling-houses ...	275 about
Total number of new houses erected ...	7
Number of new houses erected with State assistance ...	Nil.

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

1.—Inspection.

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	Nil.
Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	Nil.
Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	Nil.

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	Nil.
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ...	Nil.
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts ...	Nil.
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909 ...	Nil.

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a) Part I., or (b) Part II., of the Act of 1890 ...	Nil.
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APPENDIX III.

URBAN DISTRICT OF USK.

FACORIES, WORKSHOPS, WORKPLACES, AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, AND WORKPLACES.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS OR INSPECTORS OF NUISANCES

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries) ..	Quarterly Ditto.	NIL	NIL
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries) ..			
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' premises included in Part 3 of this Report) ..			
Total	4		

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

NIL.

3 —HOME WORK.

There are no "Outworkers" in the District.

4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of the year :—

Bakehouses	4
Wood Turnery Works	2
Motor Garages	4
Blacksmiths' Shops	2
Carriage Works	1
Dressmakers	3
Printing Establishments	1

Total number of Workshops on Register .. 17

5.—OTHER MATTERS.

CLASS.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories	Nil.
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) in use at the end of the year ..	Nil.

(Signature) E. L. M. HACKETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

May, 1926.

In conclusion, I wish to congratulate you on your low Infantile Mortality and general Death Rate, and the very healthy state of your Town during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. L. M. HACKETT,

